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8  
9 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
10 **CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**  
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12 SIGNAL IP, INC., a California  
corporation,

13 Plaintiff,

14 vs.

15 MAZDA MOTOR OF AMERICA,  
16 INC., a California corporation,

17 Defendant.

Case No. 2:14-cv-02459

**COMPLAINT FOR PATENT  
INFRINGEMENT**

**JURY TRIAL DEMANDED**

18  
19 Plaintiff Signal IP, Inc. (“Signal IP” or “Plaintiff”) brings this Complaint  
20 against Defendant Mazda Motor of America, Inc. (“Mazda” or “Defendant”),  
21 alleging as follows:

22 **PARTIES**

23 1. Plaintiff Signal IP is a California corporation with its principal place of  
24 business at 11100 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 380, Los Angeles, CA 90025.

25 2. On information and belief, Mazda Motor of America, Inc. is a  
26 California corporation with its principal place of business at 7755 Irvine Center Dr.,  
27 Irvine, CA 92618.  
28

**JURISDICTION, VENUE AND JOINDER**

3. This action arises under the patent laws of the United States, Title 35 of the United States Code. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1338(a).

4. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant. Defendant has conducted extensive commercial activities and continues to conduct extensive commercial activities within the State of California. Defendant Mazda Motor of America, Inc. maintains its principal place of business within this judicial district. Additionally, on information and belief, Defendant, directly and/or through intermediaries (including Defendant's entities, subsidiaries, distributors, sales agents, partners and others), distributes, offers for sale, sells, and/or advertises its products (including but not limited to the products and services that are accused of infringement in this lawsuit) in the United States, in the State of California, and in this judicial district, under the "Mazda" brand name. Defendant has purposefully and voluntarily placed one or more of its infringing products and services into the stream of commerce with the expectation that the products and services will be purchased or used by customers in California and within this judicial district. Accordingly, Defendant has infringed Signal IP's patents within the State of California and in this judicial district as alleged in more detail below.

5. Venue is proper in this district under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391 and 1400(b).

**BACKGROUND**

6. Signal IP, Inc. is a California corporation with a principal place of business at 11100 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 380, Los Angeles, CA 90025. It is the owner of the entire right, title and interest in and to U.S. Patent Nos. 5,714,927; 5,732,375; 6,434,486; 6,012,007; and 5,463,374 (the "Patents-in-Suit").

7. On information and belief, Defendant is a direct or indirect subsidiary of global car manufacturer and distributor Mazda Motor Corporation. ("Mazda Motor"), which is headquartered in Japan. Mazda Motor manufactures and

1 distributes cars under the “Mazda” brand name.

2 **FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

3 **(Infringement of the ‘927 Patent)**

4 8. Plaintiff incorporates paragraphs 1 through 7 of this complaint as if set  
5 forth in full herein.

6 9. Signal IP is the owner of the entire right, title, and interest in and to  
7 U.S. Patent No. 5,714,927 (the ‘927 Patent), entitled “Method of Improving Zone of  
8 Coverage Response of Automotive Radar.” The ‘927 Patent was duly and legally  
9 issued by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on February 3, 1998. A true and  
10 correct copy of the ‘927 Patent is attached as Exhibit A.

11 10. Defendant has directly infringed and continues to infringe, literally  
12 and/or under the doctrine of equivalents, the ‘927 Patent by making, using, offering  
13 for sale, and/or selling in the United States certain methods or systems disclosed and  
14 claimed in the ‘927 Patent, including but not limited to the Blind Spot Monitoring  
15 (BSM) system used in products including but not limited to the Mazda 3, 6, CX-5,  
16 CX-9, Mazdaspeed 3, RX-8, and CX-7.

17 11. Defendant has contributorily infringed and is currently contributorily  
18 infringing the ‘927 Patent by making, using, offering for sale, and/or selling in the  
19 United States certain methods or systems disclosed and claimed in the ‘927 Patent,  
20 including but not limited to the Blind Spot Monitoring (BSM) system used in  
21 products including but not limited to the Mazda 3, 6, CX-5, CX-9, Mazdaspeed 3,  
22 RX-8, and CX-7.

23 12. Defendant has actively induced and is actively inducing the  
24 infringement of the ‘927 Patent by making, using, offering for sale, and/or selling in  
25 the United States certain methods or systems disclosed and claimed in the ‘927  
26 Patent, including but not limited to the Blind Spot Monitoring (BSM) system used  
27 in products including but not limited to the Mazda 3, 6, CX-5, CX-9, Mazdaspeed 3,  
28 RX-8, and CX-7.

13. Defendant's infringement of the '927 Patent has been and continues to be willful, rendering this case exceptional within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 285.

14. Unless enjoined by this Court, Defendant will continue to infringe the '927 Patent.

15. As a direct and proximate result of the Defendant's conduct, Plaintiff has suffered, and will continue to suffer, irreparable injury for which it has no adequate remedy at law. Plaintiff also has been damaged and, until an injunction issues, will continue to be damaged in an amount yet to be determined.

## **SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

### **(Infringement of the '375 Patent)**

16. Plaintiff incorporates paragraphs 1 through 15 of this complaint as if set forth in full herein.

17. Signal IP is the owner of the entire right, title, and interest in and to U.S. Patent No. 5,732,375 (the '375 Patent), entitled "Method of Inhibiting or Allowing Airbag Deployment." The '375 Patent was duly and legally issued by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on March 24, 1998. A true and correct copy of the '375 Patent is attached as Exhibit B.

18. Defendant has directly infringed and continues to infringe, literally and/or under the doctrine of equivalents, the '375 Patent by making, using, offering for sale, and/or selling in the United States certain methods or systems disclosed and claimed in the '375 Patent, including but not limited to the passenger seat weight sensors used in products including but not limited to the Mazda 2, 3, 5, 6, CX-5, CX-9, MX-5 Miata, Mazdaspeed 3, RX-8, Tribute, and CX-7.

19. Defendant has contributorily infringed and is currently contributorily infringing the '375 Patent by making, using, offering for sale, and/or selling in the United States certain methods or systems disclosed and claimed in the '375 Patent, including but not limited to the passenger seat weight sensors used in products including but not limited to the Mazda 2, 3, 5, 6, CX-5, CX-9, MX-5 Miata,

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1 Mazdaspeed 3, RX-8, Tribute, and CX-7.

2 20. Defendant has actively induced and is actively inducing the  
3 infringement of the '375 Patent by making, using, offering for sale, and/or selling in  
4 the United States certain methods or systems disclosed and claimed in the '375  
5 Patent, including but not limited to the passenger seat weight sensors used in  
6 products including but not limited to the Mazda 2, 3, 5, 6, CX-5, CX-9, MX-5  
7 Miata, Mazdaspeed 3, RX-8, Tribute, and CX-7.

8 21. Defendant's infringement of the '375 Patent has been and continues to  
9 be willful, rendering this case exceptional within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 285.

10 22. Unless enjoined by this Court, Defendant will continue to infringe the  
11 '375 Patent.

12 23. As a direct and proximate result of the Defendant's conduct, Plaintiff  
13 has suffered, and will continue to suffer, irreparable injury for which it has no  
14 adequate remedy at law. Plaintiff also has been damaged and, until an injunction  
15 issues, will continue to be damaged in an amount yet to be determined.

### 16 **THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

#### 17 **(Infringement of the '486 Patent)**

18 24. Plaintiff incorporates paragraphs 1 through 23 of this complaint as if set  
19 forth in full herein.

20 25. Signal IP is the owner of the entire right, title, and interest in and to  
21 U.S. Patent No. 6,434,486 (the '486 Patent), entitled "Technique for Limiting the  
22 Range of an Object Sensing System in a Vehicle." The '486 Patent duly and legally  
23 issued by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on August 13, 2002. A true and  
24 correct copy of the '486 Patent is attached as Exhibit C.

25 26. Defendant has directly infringed and continues to infringe, literally  
26 and/or under the doctrine of equivalents, the '486 Patent by making, using, offering  
27 for sale, and/or selling in the United States certain methods or systems disclosed and  
28 claimed in the '486 Patent, including but not limited to the Adaptive Cruise Control

(ACC) system used in products including but not limited to the Mazda 3, 6, CX-5, CX-9, MX-5 Miata, Mazdaspeed 3, RX-8, and CX-7.

27. Defendant has contributorily infringed and is currently contributorily infringing the '486 Patent by making, using, offering for sale, and/or selling in the United States certain methods or systems disclosed and claimed in the '486 Patent, including but not limited to the Adaptive Cruise Control (ACC) system used in products including but not limited to the Mazda 3, 6, CX-5, CX-9, MX-5 Miata, Mazdaspeed 3, RX-8, and CX-7.

28. Defendant has actively induced and is actively inducing the infringement of the '486 Patent by making, using, offering for sale, and/or selling in the United States certain methods or systems disclosed and claimed in the '486 Patent, including but not limited to the Adaptive Cruise Control (ACC) system used in products including but not limited to the Mazda 3, 6, CX-5, CX-9, MX-5 Miata, Mazdaspeed 3, RX-8, and CX-7.

29. Defendant's infringement of the '486 Patent has been and continues to be willful, rendering this case exceptional within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 285.

30. Unless enjoined by this Court, Defendant will continue to infringe the '486 Patent.

31. As a direct and proximate result of the Defendant's conduct, Plaintiff has suffered, and will continue to suffer, irreparable injury for which it has no adequate remedy at law. Plaintiff also has been damaged and, until an injunction issues, will continue to be damaged in an amount yet to be determined.

#### **FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

##### **(Infringement of the '007 Patent)**

32. Plaintiff incorporates paragraphs 1 through 31 of this complaint as if set forth in full herein.

33. Signal IP is the owner of the entire right, title, and interest in and to U.S. Patent No. 6,012,007 (the '007 Patent), entitled "Occupant Detection Method

1 and Apparatus for Air Bag System.” The ‘007 Patent was duly and legally issued by  
2 the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on January 4, 2000. A true and correct copy  
3 of the ‘007 Patent is attached as Exhibit D.

4 34. Defendant has directly infringed and continues to infringe, literally  
5 and/or under the doctrine of equivalents, the ‘007 Patent by making, using, offering  
6 for sale, and/or selling in the United States certain methods or systems for hybrid  
7 vehicles disclosed and claimed in the ‘007 Patent, including but not limited to the  
8 passenger seat weight sensors used in products including but not limited to the  
9 Mazda 2, 3, 5, 6, CX-5, CX-9, MX-5 Miata, Mazdaspeed 3, RX-8, Tribute, CX-7,  
10 and Tribute Hybrid.

11 35. Defendant has contributorily infringed and is currently contributorily  
12 infringing the ‘007 Patent by making, using, offering for sale, and/or selling in the  
13 United States certain methods or systems disclosed and claimed in the ‘007 Patent,  
14 including but not limited to the passenger seat weight sensors used in products  
15 including but not limited to the Mazda 2, 3, 5, 6, CX-5, CX-9, MX-5 Miata,  
16 Mazdaspeed 3, RX-8, Tribute, CX-7, and Tribute Hybrid.

17 36. Defendant has actively induced and is actively inducing the  
18 infringement of the ‘007 Patent by making, using, offering for sale, and/or selling in  
19 the United States certain methods or systems disclosed and claimed in the ‘007  
20 Patent, including but not limited to the passenger seat weight sensors used in  
21 products including but not limited to the Mazda 2, 3, 5, 6, CX-5, CX-9, MX-5  
22 Miata, Mazdaspeed 3, RX-8, Tribute, CX-7, and Tribute Hybrid.

23 37. Defendant’s infringement of the ‘007 Patent has been and continues to  
24 be willful, rendering this case exceptional within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 285.

25 38. Unless enjoined by this Court, Defendant will continue to infringe on  
26 the ‘007 Patent.

27 39. As a direct and proximate result of the Defendant’s conduct, Plaintiff  
28 has suffered, and will continue to suffer, irreparable injury for which it has no



adequate remedy at law. Plaintiff also has been damaged and, until an injunction issues, will continue to be damaged in an amount yet to be determined.

### **FIFTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

#### **(Infringement of the '374 Patent)**

40. Plaintiff incorporates paragraphs 1 through 39 of this complaint as if set forth in full herein.

41. Signal IP is the owner of the entire right, title, and interest in and to U.S. Patent No. 5,463,374 (the '374 Patent), entitled "Method and Apparatus for tire Pressure Monitoring and for Shared Keyless Entry Control." The '374 Patent was duly and legally issued by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on October 31, 1995. A true and correct copy of the '374 Patent is attached as Exhibit E.

42. Defendant has directly infringed, literally and/or under the doctrine of equivalents, the '374 Patent by making, using, offering for sale, and/or selling in the United States certain methods or systems for hybrid vehicles disclosed and claimed in the '374 Patent, including but not limited to the Remote Keyless Entry (RKE) and Tire Pressure Monitor System (TPMS) used in products including but not limited to the Mazda 2, 3, 5, 6, CX-5, CX-9, MX-5 Miata, Mazdaspeed 3, RX-8, Tribute, CX-7, and Tribute Hybrid.

43. Defendant has contributorily infringed the '374 Patent by making, using, offering for sale, and/or selling in the United States certain methods or systems disclosed and claimed in the '374 Patent, including but not limited to the Remote Keyless Entry (RKE) and Tire Pressure Monitor System (TPMS) used in products including but not limited to the Mazda 2, 3, 5, 6, CX-5, CX-9, MX-5 Miata, Mazdaspeed 3, RX-8, Tribute, CX-7, and Tribute Hybrid.

44. Defendant has actively induced infringement of the '374 Patent by making, using, offering for sale, and/or selling in the United States certain methods or systems disclosed and claimed in the '374 Patent, including but not limited to the Remote Keyless Entry (RKE) and Tire Pressure Monitor System (TPMS) used in



1 products including but not limited to the Mazda 2, 3, 5, 6, CX-5, CX-9, MX-5  
2 Miata, Mazdaspeed 3, RX-8, Tribute, CX-7, and Tribute Hybrid.

3 45. As a direct and proximate result of the Defendant' conduct, Plaintiff  
4 has suffered irreparable injury for which it has no adequate remedy at law. Plaintiff  
5 also has been damaged in an amount yet to be determined.

### 6 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

7 Wherefore, Signal IP respectfully requests that the Court enter judgment  
8 against Defendant as follows:

9 1. That Defendant has directly infringed the Patents-in-Suit;  
10 2. That Defendant has contributorily infringed the Patents-in-Suit;  
11 3. That Defendant has induced the infringement of the Patents-in-Suit;  
12 4. That Defendant's infringement be adjudged willful and deliberate;  
13 5. That Defendant and its affiliates, subsidiaries, officers, directors,  
14 employees, agents, representatives, successors, assigns, and all those acting in  
15 concert, participation, or privity with them or on their behalf, including customers,  
16 be enjoined from infringing, inducing others to infringe or contributing to the  
17 infringement of the Patents-in-Suit;

18 6. For damages, according to proof, for Defendant's infringement,  
19 together with pre-judgment and post-judgment interest, as allowed by law and that  
20 such damages be trebled as provided by 35 U.S.C. § 284;

21 7. That this Court determine that this is an exceptional case under 35  
22 U.S.C. § 285 and an award of attorneys' fees and costs to Signal IP is warranted;  
23 and

24 8. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.  
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1 Dated: April 1, 2014

LINER LLP

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By: /s/ Ryan E. Hatch  
Randall J. Sunshine  
Ryan E. Hatch  
Jason L. Haas  
Attorneys for Plaintiff SIGNAL IP, INC

JURY DEMAND

Pursuant to Federal Rules of Civil Procedure Rule 38(b), Plaintiff Signal IP, Inc. respectfully demands a jury trial on any and all issues triable as of right by a jury in this action.

Dated: April 1, 2014

LINER LLP

By: /s/ Ryan E. Hatch

Randall J. Sunshine

Ryan E. Hatch

Jason L. Haas

Attorneys for Plaintiff SIGNAL IP, INC

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